

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice.

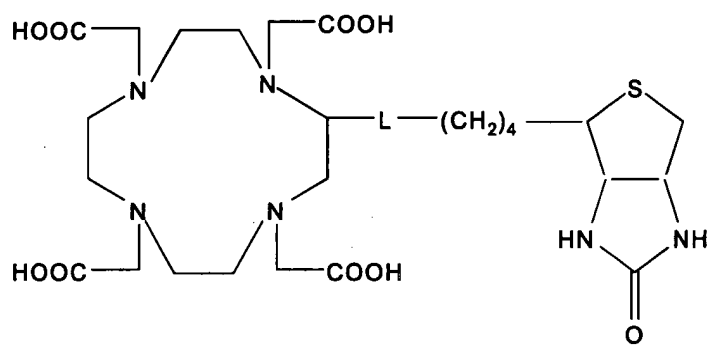
Please add new claims 16-19

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

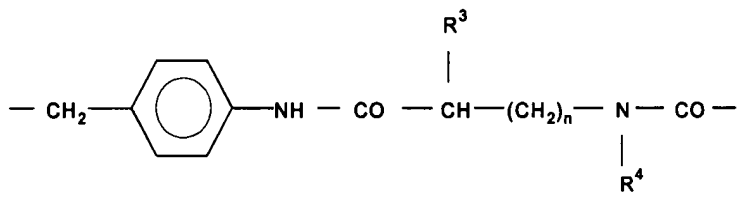
Listing of Claims:

1.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) A biotin-DOTA conjugate of the following formula:



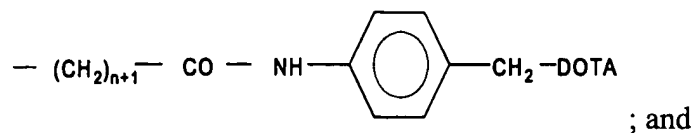
wherein L is a linker of the formula



wherein

R^3 is hydrogen; an amine; lower alkyl; a hydroxy-, sulfate- or phosphonate-substituted lower alkyl; a glucuronide; or a glucuronide-derivatized amino acid;

R^4 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or



n ranges from 0-4, wherein R³ and R⁴ cannot both be hydrogen.

17. (New) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein R⁴ is lower alkyl.

18. (New) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein R³ is hydrogen; R⁴ is CH₃; and n is 4.

19. (New) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein R³ is hydrogen; R⁴ is CH₃; and n is 0.